THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."—DANIEL 2: 44.

No. 52. Vol. LX. Thursday, December 29, 1898. Price One Penny.

DISCOURSE BY ELDER ORSON F. WHITNEY.

[*Concluded from page 805.*]

THIS was the calling of Joseph Smith. He taught anew that God was in the form of man; that man was made in the image of God; and he taught the principles of justice, mercy, charity, and forgiveness. Therefore, I say, as one who believes in him as a Prophet of God, judge the tree by its fruits. Do men not inspired of God teach men to love each other; to believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Moses, the God of Jesus Christ; to be charitable, to be honest, to be virtuous, to be upright, to be kind, loving and forgiving, and to return good for evil? No, they do not. You may know the tree by its fruits. Men do not gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles. And if men draw near to God in their lives, and teach and practice the teachings of His servants, they follow in the footsteps of their Savior—they do not follow after evil; and Joseph Smith did not. He taught the truths that the Prophets before him had taught; and he went beyond them. Yes, for this great movement nicknamed "Mormonism" is like a mighty tidal wave rolling up the beach of history, destined to make a higher ripple mark than any wave that has preceded it. Joseph Smith taught men to look up to heaven and conceive of a God in the form of man. He taught them that they could become like their Father and God, who was "an exalted Man." And what is more simple and reasonable? Don't you parents expect your children to become like you? Or do you expect your children to be something else than men and women? No. You men will see your sons become men; you women will see your daughters become women. Then God our Father—yes, and our Mother—in heaven, looking down upon this world—this school house in which their children are being educated—expect, and Joseph Smith taught it as a truth, that their children will be exalted, if they pursue the proper course, until they shall become divine beings

themselves, worthy to stand upon that plane where stand their Father and their Mother in heaven. Like begets like; and the principle of eternal progress will make of man a God.

Joseph Smith also taught the great principle of universal salvation. The Gospel of Jesus Christ saves all men; but saves them according to their merits, in different degrees of glory. True, there are some exceptions. There are some who cannot be saved, who remain filthy still, because they will not receive the truth, or, rather, having received it, throw it away and trample upon it wittingly. Men who, knowing that a thing is true, will not receive it, will not live it, cannot be sanctified by that truth. Men who are so perverse that they will utterly reject light and knowledge, knowing it to be light and knowledge, cannot be redeemed by it, for they place themselves outside the pale of redemption. But are there many who would do this? I have this much confidence in the human race; I believe that the most of men would, if the truth were brought to them, obey it, either fully or in part; that they would not fly in the face of God, knowing Him to be God, nor reject His truth, knowing it to be His truth. Hence the Savior said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." But those who do know, their situation is far more serious. God is merciful to ignorance. He cannot look upon sin with allowance, but He can allow for human weakness. He cannot compromise with sin. He saves us from our sins, not in our sins; and He has instituted means whereby we may get rid of our sins. He tells us to believe, to have faith, to repent of our sins, and have them washed away by baptism, by being immersed—buried—in the water and brought forth out of the water, in the likeness of His birth and resurrection. And not only this, but we are required to practice all that God reveals. This is the celestial law—to live by every word that proceeds from His mouth; not to select this principle or that principle, and say, "This is my Gospel;" but listen to Him and to His servants who bear the holy Priesthood, and follow them, and obey them; for they are the mouthpieces and oracles of God. This is the celestial law. You need not try to tie it down to any one thing; it means everything that we are commanded to do. We are here that it may be seen whether we will observe to do all that the Lord our God requires at our hands.

And what awaits those who obey this celestial law? These are they who are of the glory of the sun, of the celestial kingdom, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical. They who receive the Gospel in the flesh when it is presented to them, who live its holy principles, and are faithful unto the end; they are saved, redeemed, sanctified and exalted by it. They go into the celestial kingdom, to enjoy the full presence of God the Father. They are beings celestial, and their glory is the glory of the sun. All things are theirs, and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's. But they who reject the Gospel here, and put off the day of their salvation, and have to be preached to in the spirit world, where their spirits will go, as did the spirits of the antediluvians, those who were swept off by the flood, and to whom Christ in the spirit went and preached, even to "the spirits in prison"—they who put off the day

of their salvation, and think "we will have a good time here and will obey the Gospel hereafter," they must answer for this neglect, and after they have answered for it and realized what they have lost, they will be saved —not in the celestial kingdom, but in a lesser kingdom called the terrestrial, the difference between which and the celestial world is as the difference between the moon that rules the night and the sun that is king of day. The heathen nations that were never given the Gospel, and consequently never sinned against it, are also heirs of the terrestrial kingdom. But those who reject the Gospel altogether and are besotted and crime-stained—what of them? It is written that they will be thrust down to hell; even the murderer, the liar, the sorcerer, and the whoremonger. They will, in short, be damned. But they will only be damned to the extent justified by their sins. Even for them there is hope, after they have "paid the uttermost farthing." They will be punished, as all men must be, for neglect of duty, for transgression of the laws of God; but after they have been punished sufficiently, they will be brought forth and saved in a glory of which the stars in heaven are typical.

Joseph Smith taught this great and mighty doctrine. He re-enunciated an old truth; for Paul the Apostle had spoken concerning it, though men had lost the knowledge of what he meant—when he said, "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.

Brethren and sisters, we who are Latter-day Saints; we who are followers of Jesus Christ, of Joseph Smith, of Brigham Young, of John Taylor, of Wilford Woodruff, and of the Apostles and Prophets of to-day, whom God has placed over us to counsel and to teach us; we are entitled, if our course be consistent, to the highest glory of all—the celestial kingdom. But in order to attain it we must not live after the manner of the world: we must live by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God; we must be willing to make sacrifices, even as great as Abraham's in offering his son Isaac, should God require it. This is the key to the celestial kingdom—the principle of obedience, which may involve many and great sacrifices. This is what makes the way straight and the gate narrow, and few there be that find it, because our hearts are so much set upon the things of this world, and we love the honors of men—we love wealth, we love pleasure, we love this world, we bow down to it and worship it as Israel worshiped the golden calf; we cannot or do not lift our thoughts all the time to worship the invisible God. Because of this, many of us stand in jeopardy of losing celestial glory. But God grant that all who are straying, if such there be, may turn into the right way—the narrow way —and serve God with all their hearts, their might, mind and strength. May we not disappoint the heavens, that sent us forth to be teachers and exemplars and saviors of men; and when the time comes that the fullness decreed by the Father shall be bestowed upon His children, may we not twinkle like the stars, or beam like the moon, but blaze like the sun in his noonday majesty, as inhabitants and citizens of the celestial commonwealth, the glorious kingdom of our God. Amen.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1898.

FORCE OF HABIT.

THIS number of the STAR closes the 60th Volume with the closing year. Hereafter it will be in order to write 1899, but, as the hand tends to act in accustomed ways, many missives will unconsciously be dated back one year. Such errors may in many cases be perfectly harmless, while in others, the result might be very annoying if not serious. This tendency of habits of action as well as of thought to repeat themselves unconsciously should teach the necessity of forming only such habits as we would be willing to have repeated anywhere, in any company and in the broad light of day.

No habit of speech or action should be indulged in at home that would bring chagrin if repeated abroad, and that which is done in the dark should be of such a character that unconscious repetition in the daylight or before the world would not bring a blush of shame to the cheek.

Building habits is virtually character building, and character is something as lasting as eternity, so that negligence in the smaller details will seriously mar the beautiful whole, as the slightest daub on a masterpiece of art would seriously detract from its beauty and reduce its market value to a minimum.

A blemish on a beautiful picture tends to mar its beauty in direct proportion to the artistic perfection displayed in the picture as a whole; so also the slightest deformity appears more conspicuous as the character approaches the highest ideal.

The closing of the year is an appropriate time to give a backward glance over the year 1898 and carefully examine our thoughts, desires and actions and note those that are becoming fixed, that all undesirable ones may be pruned off while yet tender and those that tend to improve and ornament the character may, by repetition and cultivation, become fixed and unchangeable.

It isn't well to make loud, boastful promises of reformation with the new year, but rather determine deep down in the heart that, with the help of God, the next year shall be more fruitful than the past in all that is true and beautiful and lovely, and that the mistakes of the past shall stand as guide-posts to warn the feet from straying in such dangerous paths again.

This retrospective view should be made not only at the beginning of the year, but every day and every hour of life, that reformation may not be spasmodic but continuous—a living growth bearing fruit daily and

hourly, and thus perfecting the character until we come "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

A. W.

OUR LAST NUMBER.

THE now completed volume reminds both Publisher and reader that time flies, years go and the Prophecies are being and will continue to be fulfilled.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose organ and exponent in this land the STAR is, still pursues, as predicted, its calm, persistent and unruffled way.

The change in public sentiment so solemnly promised at the dedication of the Salt Lake City Temple has been abundantly fulfilled.

The death of our venerable and beloved President was to the Church, the sad event of the year; the accession of President Snow to that arduous and responsible position is a fitting sequel to his consecrated life, and the Saints will surely enjoy his beneficent and inspired rule.

The extension of missionary effort, until nearly two thousand Elders are now warning the nations, is a significant sign of the times.

From a local standpoint, the change of Presidency in the British Mission is of importance, faithful men will go and come until the Kingdom of God is fully established.

The MILLENNIAL STAR will continue to record the great Latter-day work and to gratify its patrons, as the spirit may determine.

May its readers and enquirers increase!

DEFENDED.—Some strictures on the Elders recently appeared in the Glasgow Press, and the *Daily Record* of that city gave place (December 21st) to a vigorous rebuttal from the pen of Elder David McKay; he gives credit to his associates for sacrifice, devotion and purpose, and claims that their only object is to preach the Gospel, obedience to which "will make bad men good and good men better."

As to the home life of the people in Utah, he refers to "the testimony of unprejudiced intelligent men" whose communications and writings ought to be familiar to all who write for and control the Press in this country from which so many have been drawn into the fold of Christ and to the gathering place in Utah.

SISTER EMMELINE B. WELLS contributes to the *News* an elaborate and feelingly appreciative obituary of the late Sister Sarah M. G. Kimball who (widely known and everywhere esteemed) died in Salt Lake City, December 1. Deceased was an ardent and untiring worker in the Gospel and all refining auxiliaries therof, and is surely entitled to be numbered among the noble women of this generation.

THE address of President H. L. James of the Bristol Conference has been changed from 18A Milsom St. to 5 Ducie Road, Barton Hill, Bristol.

THE GOSPEL IN ANCIENT BRITAIN.

BY ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS.

[*Continued from page 800.*]

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The company landed at Ebbsfeet, in the Isle of Thanet (Kent), whence they sent messengers to King Ethelbert, who received them kindly, and named a day on which he would meet them. The meeting took place in the open air, the king fearing the strangers might exercise some enchantment if he admitted them to his palace or other building.

Mr. Yoewell tells us what followed:

"Augustine and his companions proceeded to the appointed place, and advanced in slow procession towards the king and the queen, chanting the litany and carrying with them a large silver cross, together with a picture of our Savior, and praying earnestly for the divine protection. Seats had been prepared for them; and at the command of the king, they

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[TO BE CONCLUDED IN VOL. LXI.]

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promoters claim, will outrank anything yet undertaken by even the fertile people of the banner ward.

Dr. Millspaugh, city superintendent of schools, is expected to resign in favor of a more lucrative position in Minnesota, expectation is on the *qui vive* as to his probable successor.

W. G. Patrick left for the east, where his baritone voice will be cultivated under the tuition of Prof. G. Sweet, whose success has been so marked with other famous local students.

For the Christmas holidays, J. H. Leyson and Co., of Salt Lake City received the largest shipment of cut glass ever brought into the State, some of the pieces being eight, ten and twenty pounds in weight.

The wind blew at the velocity of forty-eight miles per hour (December 8th) in Salt Lake City, Ogden and over an extensive section besides; considerable damage was done, but no loss of life was reported in the *News*. The cold and storm were intense enough to close many of the schools.

It is time that a little more confidence was exhibited by "the native born" in the stability and permanence of American institutions, or the reproach of Tobiah, Neh. 4: 3, will be, to the onlooker, a natural conclusion "Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall break down their stone wall."

Twenty-four Christian (?) ministers of Utah are endeavoring to fan the flame of opposition and persecution once more, because forsooth Elder B. H. Roberts has been elected to Congress over his opponent by near six thousand majority. All sorts of dire results are prognosticated because of this election, and the tremor is so great that it even reaches to the further East, where it is said one hundred thousand women are also to petition Congress not to seat the Representative for similar reasons.

DIED.

SAUNDERS.—At Wadhurst, Sussex, of old age and general debility, in her 81st year, Ruth Skinner, wife of Geo. Saunders, she was a firm believer in the gospel, and passed from earth in the faith of a glorious resurrection in Christ Jesus.

CLEMENTS.—In the Twenty-first ward, of Salt Lake City, December 7, 1898, of heart trouble, Hellen Steadman, wife of John T. Clements, born in Birmingham, County of Warwick, England, November 12, 1856, aged 42 years and 25 days. Deceased was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, February 24, 1881; emigrated to Utah in 1888. She leaves a husband and three children. She died firm in the faith of the Gospel.

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EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY PLATTE D. LYMAN, 42 ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL.

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